

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

SUB A37

1. A method for displaying records responsive to a database query comprising the steps of:

5 displaying a list of identifiers for a plurality of said responsive records;

and

displaying selected elements of at least one of said responsive records,
wherein said list of identifiers and said selected elements are displayed
simultaneously.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected elements comprise the entirety of one of said responsive records.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifiers comprise case citations.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying and marking records displayed in their entirety in a prior search request.

15 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying and marking records that were responsive to a prior search request.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sorting said responsive records.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said responsive records include

20 a record name;

a record citation;

a record date; and

a record author.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of computing the relevance of said responsive records.

5 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of computing the relevance of said records.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said list of responsive records is sorted according to said record name.

10 11. The method of claim 7, wherein said list of responsive records is sorted according to said record citation.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said list of responsive records is sorted according to a record date.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein said list of responsive records is sorted according to said record author.

15 14. The method of claim 9, wherein said list of responsive records is sorted according to said relevance of said records.

15. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of resolving ties in a preceding sort.

20 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying responsive records that were displayed in their entirety in a prior search.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said responsive records are identified with text.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein said responsive records are identified with icons.

5 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said responsive records are identified with color.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein said responsive records are identified with a browser viewed link designation.

21. An apparatus for displaying records responsive to a database query comprising:
10 means for displaying a list of identifiers for a plurality of said responsive records, and
means for displaying selected elements of at least one of said responsive records, wherein said list of identifiers and said selected elements are displayed simultaneously.

15 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said selected elements comprise the entirety of one of said responsive records.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a means for identifying said responsive records.

20 24. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for identifying records displayed in their entirety in a prior search.

25. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a means for identifying records that were responsive to a prior search.

26. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for sorting said responsive records.

5 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said means for sorting comprises an algorithm.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said algorithm comprises:

means for computing the frequency of occurrence of a plurality of search terms; and means for ordering said responsive records based on said frequency.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said algorithm further comprises:

means for computing the proximity of said search terms; and
means for ordering said responsive records based on said proximity.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said algorithm comprises:

means for computing the proximity of a plurality of said search terms; and
means for ordering said responsive records based on said proximity.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said algorithm comprises:

means for computing the number of times each of said responsive records is referenced by each other of said responsive records; and
ordering said responsive records based on said number.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said means for computing comprises a table containing the number of times each of said responsive records is referenced by each other responsive record.

33. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said algorithm comprises means for ordering said responsive records according to the number of times each of said responsive records has been selected by prior users.

34. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means of computing the relevance of said responsive records.

35. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said list of selected records is sorted according to a record name.

36. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said list of selected records is sorted according to a record citation.

37. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said list of selected records is sorted according to a record date.

38. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said list of selected records is sorted according to a record author.

39. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said list of selected records is sorted according to a record rank, said record rank being determined by a previously-applied algorithm.

40. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for identifying records contained in said list of responsive records that were displayed in their entirety in a prior search.

41. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said identifying means comprises text.

5 42. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said identifying means comprises an icon.

43. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said identifying means comprises colored text.

44. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said identifying means comprises a viewed link designation.

10 45. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a means for identifying records contained in said list of responsive records that were selected in a prior search.

46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said identifying means comprises text.

47. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said identifying means comprises an icon.

15 48. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said identifying means comprises colored text.

49. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said identifying means comprises a viewed link designation.

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